

24
MR. WOOD'S SERMON,

AT ST BRIDE'S,

OCT. 29, 1797.

PREVIOUS TO A COLLECTION

For the Relief of the WOUNDED SEAMEN,
and WIDOWS and ORPHANS of the KILLED,
in the late glorious NAVAL VICTORY.

[Price One Shilling.]

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ST. BRIDE'S, LONDON, Nov. 1, 1797.

At a Public Vestry holden this day, it was Unanimously Resolved, That the Thanks of this Vestry be given to the Rev. MANLEY WOOD, Curate of this Parish, for his excellent and well-timed Sermon, preached on Sunday last, for the benevolent purpose of making a Collection towards alleviating the Distresses of the Wounded, and also the Widows and Orphans of those who bravely fell, in the late glorious action under the command of Admiral Lord Viscount DUNCAN: And that he be requested to print the same.

ABEL BRADLEY, VESTRY-CLERK.

Lloyd's Coffee House, November 3, 1797.

GENTLEMEN,

As Chairman of the Committee of Subscribers for the relief of the wounded seamen, and the widows and orphans of those who were killed in the engagement between Admiral Lord Duncan and the Dutch Fleet, the 11th of October; I beg leave to return you the thanks of the Committee for your liberal Subscription to the Fund.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

CALVERLEY BEWICKE.

To the Reverend Manley Wood,
Deputy, Common-Council, and
Church-wardens, of St. Bride's,
Fleet-street.



A
S E R M O N

PREACHED AT

ST. BRIDE'S CHURCH,

OCT. 29, 1797.

BY THE REV. *MANLEY WOOD*,
CURATE OF THAT PARISH;

For the Purpose of making a Collection towards
alleviating the Distresses of the WOUNDED
SEAMEN, and also the WIDOWS and ORPHANS
of those who bravely fell, in the late Action,
on the 11th of October, under the Command of
ADMIRAL LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY J. NICHOLS;

AND SOLD BY J. PRIDGEN, NO. 100, FLEET-STREET.

1797.

[*.* The Profits of the Sale will be added to the Collection.]



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author begs leave to premise, that the request of his promoting the subscription at Lloyd's, by a collection at St. Bride's church, was made to him but a few days previous to the Sunday on which the following Sermon was preached : and, as the Parish afterwards thought the subscription might be benefited by printing it, he did not hesitate to consent. The extreme shortness of the time allowed him will therefore be his excuse, he hopes, for any inaccuracies that may appear in the work ; and perhaps the reader will the readier pardon them, when he is informed, that charity, and not a wish for fame, was the cause of its publication.

Nov. 8, 1797.

S E R M O N.

I EPISTLE OF PETER, Chap. IV. Verse 10.

*As every man hath received the Gift, even so
minister the same one to another, as good
Stewards of the manifold Grace of God.*

IT is the singular privilege of the Christian Religion, to be well spoken of even by those who do not profess to hold its doctrines. That spirit of charity and benevolence which it so fervently and uniformly breathes, hath secured to it the approbation of those who have been disposed to ridicule its pretensions
to

to a divine origin ; and, though unbelievers will not allow it to be a revelation come from God, yet they acknowledge its being the kindest system that hath proceeded from men.

The truth is, the soul of man is formed for beneficence, and all its powers are gratified by the contemplation and the practice of it. Our hearts naturally incline us to compassion, and, unless we take great pains to harden and corrupt them, expand into rapture whenever we perform an act of mercy. The pleasure of doing good is the most exquisite pleasure which we feel, both as to its present enjoyment and the future recollection of it. The more benevolent our inclinations are, the more satisfaction and delight we find within our breasts ; and the greater our ability of bestowing happiness on others, the sweeter is the possession of life to ourselves. A disposition to do good is constantly

stantly rewarded with the esteem of mankind; and brutality of behaviour, and a selfish preference of our own interests, are invariably attended with their dislike and hatred. Besides this, the conviction we have of the instability of all earthly things tends greatly to raise in the minds of considerate persons a pity for the wants and infirmities of those around them. We all know what it is to suffer in some instance or other; and the man who will not, with this impression on his mind, be ready to "rejoice with those that do rejoice," and to "weep with those that weep," must have hardened his heart indeed. The reflection, that we are all children of the same frail nature, and inheritors of the same corruption; that we are born with the same wants, are subject to the same infirmities, and certain of the same common dissolution; will of itself be sufficient to fill our minds with brotherly love and tenderness one towards another. So that, if there were no

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revealed

revealed religion in the world, and Faith and Hope had no longer any existence, yet, while our natural sensations and apprehensions continue what they are, and the state of the world remains as it is, we could not possibly divest ourselves either of the desire or the duty of being exercised in works of benevolence and charity. We live in a world, where the exercise of mercy and pity alone renders the face of things at all pleasing and chearful to us, and, from the want of which, the number of persons driven to despair would render society unsafe to its other members. Moreover, we are sensible to what changes and chances we are subject; we know the uncertainty of all worldly things: and, therefore, it behoves us greatly to give all the countenance we are able, by exhortation and example, to works of mercy and compaffion. We know not what a day may bring forth, and, on that account, we are concerned to encourage that spirit of charity which, by some unlucky
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cast of accident, or some grievous stroke of adversity, either we, or those who belong to us, may live to want exercised towards ourselves.

These are reasons which actuate men to works of beneficence, even though they have no hope of the promises. But, to us, much more powerful are the inducements for the practice of universal love to the whole family of God. We have the assurance, that, "God is not unrighteous, that he will not forget our work and labour of love;" and, elsewhere, we are told that "alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin;" and that "those who exercise alms and righteousness shall be filled with life." And, in so high an estimation doth our blessed Saviour consider the virtue of benevolence, that he ranks it immediately next to piety and devotion; for, speaking of the love of the Almighty who hath created us, as the first com-

mandment, he adds, "the second is like unto it; namely, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Nay, the apostle John goes farther, and declares it to be impossible for a man to fulfil the former without fulfilling the latter; "If any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen?" "This commandment," says he, "have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."

And, as the greatest encouragement to us in the practice of this amiable virtue, the Scriptures are full of great and precious promises to those "who deal out their bread to the hungry, and hide not themselves from their own flesh;" "Come, ye blessed of my father," says the merciful Jesus, "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for, I was an hungred, and
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ye gave me meat ; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink ; I was a stranger, and ye took me in ; naked, and ye clothed me ; I was sick, and ye visited me ; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." And when we, like those spoken of in the Gospel, shall reply with surprise and astonishment, " Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and ministered unto thee?" we shall receive that gracious answer of condescending love, " Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

But, with this prospect of an eternal reward in the next world, the merciful do not lose the reward of their labours even in this. Charitable actions ensure to them the love and veneration of mankind whilst they live, and will keep their memory in reputation when they are no more ; besides the inward satisfaction

saction which they will feel, in bestowing the things of this world as becomes "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." That rapture, which will be diffused over their minds by the proper discharge of this duty, will convince them how congenial to the feelings of man are the words of our divine master, that it is far more blessed to give than to receive.

Whence, then, comes it to pass, that such incitements and motives to benevolence produce so little active charity as they do in too many of us? The reason is, we are too apt to suffer the god of this world to blind our eyes; we give ourselves up to the guidance of selfish affections and evil passions; we indulge ourselves so unboundedly in the gratification of our depraved appetites, that we not only lose all sense of religion towards God, but we destroy also within us all sentiments of kindness for our neighbour. Some persons

persons render their hearts totally callous to every impression of fine feeling ; and others, though they preserve some notions of sensibility, yet its operations are extremely confined and partial. Some have a certain lukewarmness in their nature ; their good deeds “ come to the birth, but they have not strength to bring forth.” They feel something like an inward satisfaction in contemplating acts of tenderness and humanity ; they can admire them in others, but they cannot, or will not, practise them themselves. They can speak well of them with their lips, nay, their hearts do not seem far from them ; and yet, by some fatality or other, they do not bring forth good fruit, “ either an hundred fold, or sixty, or even thirty.”

As to the instability of all earthly possessions, and the consideration that we are all liable to misery ourselves, which, one would suppose, should be the greatest inducement
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to a commiseration of the wants of others, it is almost entirely forgotten amidst the pleasures and vanities of the world ; or else men employ it as the reason for turning the whole bent of their thoughts and actions to the advancement of their own private interests. If my time be so short, says the libertine, and the goods of this world so uncertain, the greater cause have I to make the most of them whilst they are within my reach. And, says the man of business, what better argument can I have for endeavouring to secure them, whilst I have the power of doing it ? surely I must be mad indeed, to give away that which I do not know I may ever be able to recover again. How do I know the number of years I have to live, or the number of cross accidents which may befall me in the time ? My children, and relatives, will at all events want every assistance my poor endeavours can render them, although I should not want assistance myself ; and charity begins at home.

home. Thus they argue, without reflecting that "it is not their own strength, or the mightiness of their arm, which is to get them these things." They consider not, that "he who gathers much has nothing over ; and he who gathers little has no lack : " nor do they seem to dread the power of that voice which may cry out to them, "Ye fools, this night shall your souls be required of you !"

Our wise Creator has not, therefore, left us to our own government and direction, has not given us up to the guidance of our own inclinations ; but, as he saw that we might, from the selfish intercourse of this world, deaden the natural feelings of humanity planted within our breasts, unless they were kept alive by some powerful consideration, he hath promised great rewards, and denounced heavy punishments, to those who fulfil or neglect the duty of charity ;

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not leaving it as an act of choice, but making it matter of obligation to every one of us: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Having now spoken something to you of the duty of charity and benevolence in general, which we are under the strictest obligations to practise, upon every occasion that shall present itself to us, in our different degrees and situations of life; I will farther consider what is our particular duty towards those our unhappy fellow-creatures, who are more immediately the objects of our present consideration.

That they are Wounded, and Widows, and Orphans, is enough in itself to entitle them to your kindness and beneficence. Both ye and they are children of that God, who, from the beginning to the end of his revealed will,
hath

hath never ceased to make those who are destitute the peculiar objects of his recommendation; and who hath scarcely denounced a single curse against the disobedient Israelites but where one great charge of their guilt is, that they neglected the fatherless and widows. And both ye and they are disciples of that divine Mediator whose whole employment was doing good; but who, among the many rules and instances of mercy that he hath adduced for your practice and imitation, hath not brought forward one more forcibly and affectingly told, than that of the poor man, who, travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho, fell among the thieves. The tenderness and affection with which the good Samaritan bound up his wounds, and the care with which he conveyed him to a place of rest, are so pathetically set forth, and the conclusive command of "go thou and do likewise" is so peremptorily dictated, as to convince us that we shall be considered without excuse,

if we do not, whenever an opportunity offers, become ready followers of so lovely an example.

But, if the promises and threatenings of God, and the injunctions and example of Christ, be not sufficient, and ye hesitate to contribute, although so powerfully commanded; yet, let me ask, who are those wounded for whom we now beg your kind assistance, and in whose behalf we at present appear pleading before you? Are they your petitioners only? and have they no demand but upon your charity? Are they not your bulwark and your rock of defence? and have they not the highest imaginable claim upon your thankfulness and gratitude? Is it not through their valour, and the valour of their fellow-heroes, that you enjoy safety in your concerns, and tranquillity in your habitations? that you sit, undisturbed by the fear of your enemies, “under the shadow of your own vines

vines and your own fig-trees ?” and that you “ drink every one the waters of his own cistern ?” Reflect but for a moment what is now your situation, and what it would be but for their defence and protection ; and then you will readily and gratefully acknowledge, that “ God hath by them wrought salvation unto Israel.”

We have been engaged, for the **LAST FIVE** years, in a war with an enemy, of an unprecedented kind. We have been contending with a nation whose every effort is fury and desperation, and whose forces are actuated by a spirit, which France under its Monarchy seemed an utter stranger to. The success of their armies hath kept pace with the ardour and enthusiasm of the soldiers that compose them ; and they have spread themselves uncontrouled (with the exception of a very few checks) over almost all the Southern part of Europe, either subduing the people before them,

them, or compelling them at least to enter into alliance with them ; extending, at the same time, the principles of that Revolution, the limits of whose effects are beyond the utmost stretch of human calculation. Flushed with the repeated success of their troops on the Continent, they formed a plan for the entire destruction of this kingdom. They regarded us as their oldest and mightiest opponents, and they looked with envious hatred on the state of our naval greatness. They united themselves with the two maritime powers of Spain and Holland ; and hoped, by means of their combined exertions, to gain a victory over our fleets, and effect a landing in this nation. Nay, with such confidence did they threaten, and with such force did they seem endued, that the minds of many of us were, at one time, in actual alarm, lest they should be able in reality to accomplish an invasion.

But

But from this evil the Almighty hath mercifully preserved us, by the intrepidity of our commanders, and the bravery of our seamen. We have been successful in our battles with each of our enemies. We vanquished the fleet of France, at a time when their boasting was risen almost to a pitch of terror to us. We overcame that of Spain, at the moment to prevent a junction, the united strength of which would have kept us in a perpetual alarm for our safety. And by this last decisive victory over that of the Dutch Republic *, we are relieved from the dread, which we have so long entertained, of an attack being made upon our sister kingdom.

By this glorious victory, we are confirmed in an assurance, and our enemies are wofully

* The London Gazette, with the particulars of this action, so honourable to all who bore a part in it, is copied at the end of this Sermon.

convinced, of that unity of action, with regard to foreign opposition, which hath always been preserved among us. What pleasing reflections must it raise in our minds, and what confusion in the breasts of our adversaries, to observe, that the very men, who but a few months ago were justly branded with the harsh names of mutineers and insurgents, have acquitted themselves in this action like patriots and heroes! That those, who durst so lately, whilst within our own ports, trample upon all rule, and suspend the authority of their officers, no sooner saw the foes of their country proudly advancing on the ocean, but their hearts became united with the hearts of their commanders like the heart of one man, and they flew on their enemies like a lion on his devoted prey! What sweet consolation is it to all true lovers of their native land, to remark, that, however we may differ in opinion among ourselves, or whatever questions we may have of real or imaginary

imaginary grievances, yet it is impossible for Britons to be faithless to their common cause, or to be supine in their duty when their country calls for their exertions ! And how should we all rejoice in the consideration, that those our fellow-citizens have, by this act of bravery, effaced from our minds every remembrance of their former rashness and impatience ; and enabled us again to stretch out our arms to them as to our friends and brethren !

By this glorious victory, we are not only freed from the dread of our enemies that are round about us, but have also reason to conclude, that “ God still careth for us, and that we are not wholly cast out of the light of his countenance ;” for, after all that we may say of our own strength, or our own management, they would avail us but little, unless he “ covered our head in the day of battle.” By consulting our histories, it will appear, how

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often

often his Almighty arm hath wrought deliverance for us, when there was no probable appearance of succour at hand. It is through his protection that we have so long enjoyed our state of envied superiority over all our neighbours; and it is by his assistance that we have now once more triumphed over those who are enemies to our peace. Therefore, the devoutest and heartiest thanks are to be given to our God, who, though he thought proper to correct us, and to shew us danger nigh at hand, yet in his mercy hath not given us over to destruction. "He hath girded us with strength unto the battle; he hath thrown down our enemies under us; he hath made our adversaries also to turn their backs upon us; and we have destroyed them that hate us. For this cause will we give thanks unto thee, O Lord! among the Gentiles, and sing praises unto thy name for ever and ever."

But,

But, whilst we thus rejoice for this signal victory vouchsafed to us, let us pause—let us ask ourselves the affecting question, if all our countrymen can join in our gladness of heart ! Would to God, I could answer in the affirmative ! and that there were no cause for this public address from me to you ! But, alas ! the reverse is the melancholy case ; and more than a thousand of your brave seamen have bled to purchase you this deliverance. In this hour, while we are here assembled to give public thanks * to the Almighty for his loving kindness, and tender mercy, hundreds are agonized with the rankling wounds of balls and splinters, or groaning under the cruel knife which has severed their mangled limbs from them ; whilst hundreds more are

* The day on which this Sermon was preached, a most excellent form of thanksgiving was ordered by his Majesty to be used on the occasion of the victory ; which may be found in the Appendix.

committed to the vast deep, to rest there till the trump of the Archangel shall command the sea to give up her dead. Would to God, I could spare your pious ears the recital of this tale of horror ! that I had not to declare to you, how the former, by fighting to continue to you the happiness of security and ease, have rendered themselves helpless and miserable for the remainder of their lives ; whilst the latter, to preserve your sons from slavery, and your wives and daughters from violation, have rendered their own wives widows, and their own children fatherless. Would to God, there were no occasion for this distressful story ! but it is my sorrowful task to press the truth of it upon you. I stand up here, to enforce your commiseration ; to entreat your bounty in their behalf ; to remind you that the Wounded are rendered incapable of farther service, and consequently deprived of the means of procuring for themselves wherewith to serve the ordinary
wants

wants of nature ; and that the Widows and Orphans, by having the desire of their eyes cut off with a stroke, by losing their guardians and their parents, are thrown upon the wide world, without protection, without support—upon that world, where shortly, when the merits and services of their deceased friends are forgotten, scarcely one person will stretch out an hand to save them from destruction and despair.

I forbear to urge this matter farther upon you, because I consider myself as speaking to a Christian congregation ; because I am addressing myself to the disciples of that blessed Master, whose only test of obedience to him is, that we “love one another.” Or, if there be any here who do not reverence the name of the Lord Jesus, and who are not disposed to assist those distressed objects on the principle of love and compassion ; to them I pronounce it, not matter of charity, but of debt.

debt. *They* and *theirs* are suffering, and have suffered, in our service and defence; and *we*, in return, ARE BOUND to relieve and succour them; and, if we neglect so to do, we not only commit a violation against Christian benevolence, but we also swerve from the laws of natural and moral justice. But I hope and trust there is no one in this assembly who would wait for his justice to be challenged when his pity is entreated.

If it were needful to say any more on this subject, I would remark, that it is not only just, but it is expedient also, that we should be liberal on this occasion; for, by thus protecting the Wounded, and the Widows and Orphans of those who are slain in our battles, we give the greatest encouragement that may be to the well-manning our fleets. Men will enter with infinitely more readiness and alacrity, when they observe how chearfully the publick contribute to the relief of their
distresses.

distresses. If they see no provision made for them or their families in case of accident, it must be little short of despair that can engage them to belong to the service ; whereas, when they discover the fostering hand of Mercy extended to their infirmities, it will be their happiness to serve a community so sensible of its obligations. And, if there were no other reason but this to stir us up to the exercise of this duty, it were of itself enough in a country like England, whose only defence that can be relied upon is the energy of her navies. This is, I say, consideration enough to stir us up to the exercise of the benevolence I am soliciting : yet there is one of much more concern, and which, if duly regarded, will always influence us to acts of charity and beneficence, namely, that “ we are stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Let us, therefore, bear in mind this momentous truth ; and let us conduct our-

selves as under a constant sense of it, looking forward to that great day, when every one of us must "give an account of his stewardship, for that he may be no longer steward;" that so we may obtain from the lips of our Judge that ravishing commendation of, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful in a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—*And do thou, O God! who hast taught us that all our doings without Charity are nothing worth, send thy holy spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of Charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee; that so we, administering thy temporal gifts to our poor and afflicted brethren, may at last receive of thee the gift of eternal life, through the merits and mediation of thy son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

APPENDIX,

No. I.

*Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving ordered to be read
in all the Churches and Chapels of Great Britain,
for the signal Victory obtained through the Blessing
of Almighty God, by his Majesty's Ships under
Admiral Duncan, over the Dutch Fleet.*

O GOD, our defence and strength,
the helper of all who put their trust in Thee, who
alone givest victory unto kings, and savest Thy
servants from the peril of the sword, we acknow-
ledge it to have been of thy unspeakable goodness,
not of our merit, that, in numberless instances,
many of which our eyes have witnessed, Thy arm,
stretched out in times of danger, hath wrought
deliverance for this land. But more especially at
this time are we bound to praise Thee for the late
signal instance of Thy mercy, in that Thou hast
vouchsafed to bless the arms of our Sovereign with
success, in the discomfiture of a numerous host
of a great and mighty foe.

Continue, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to go
forth with our fleets and armies. Inspire, as hi-
therto Thou hast done, the leaders with wisdom
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and courage, and the men with intrepidity. Support them in the hour of danger with the recollection, that the battle is for more than gain or glory—for religion and for public liberty, for the independence of their country, for the rights of civil society, for the maintenance of every ordinance, divine and human, essential to the well-being of man. And for those whom, in this righteous cause, Thy providence permits to fall, receive, we pray Thee, their souls to Thy mercy; and be Thou, O Lord, the friend and father of their widows and their orphans.

Fill the hearts of us, who live to taste Thy goodness here, with the devoutest gratitude to Thee. . Unite us in zeal for Thy truth, in loyalty to the King, and in the bonds of brotherly love and charity one towards another. Especially give us grace not to be elated with prosperity, but, in the season of triumph, no less than in adversity, to look up to Thee, and to walk humbly with our God. And, if it be Thy gracious will, grant that the heart of the enemy may be softened by defeat, touched with remorse and penitence, and brought back to the acknowledgement of Thy divine providence, that so they may henceforth desist from the pursuits of unjust ambition, and, all nations in meekness submitting to the guidance of Thy holy law, the world may be delivered by Thy mercy from the scourge of war and of civil insurrection; that we of this land, and all Thy people, may, as we are most bounden, give Thee thanks and praise for ever, through Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord.

Amen.

No. II.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, OCTOBER 13.

Lieutenant Brodie, of the Rose cutter, arrived early this morning with a letter from Admiral Duncan, Commander in chief of his Majesty's ships, &c. employed in the North sea, to Evan Nepean, esq. of which the following is a copy :

Venerable, off the coast of Holland, the 12th of October, by log, (11th) three P. M. Camperdown, E. S. E. eight miles, wind N. by E.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to inform you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, at nine o'clock this morning, I got sight of the Dutch fleet ; at half past twelve, I passed through their line, and the action commenced, which has been very severe. The admiral's ship is dismasted, and has struck, as have several others, and one is on fire.

I shall send captain Fairfax with particulars the moment I can spare him.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
ADAM DUNCAN.

No. III.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1797.

Admiralty-office, October 16, 1797.

Captain Fairfax, of the *Venerable*, arrived early this morning with dispatches from Adam Duncan, esq. Admiral of the *Blue*, Commander of his Majesty's ships, &c. employed in the North sea, to Evan Nepean, esq. Secretary of the Admiralty; of which the following are copies:

*Venerable, at Sea, 13th October, 1797,
off the coast of Holland.*

SIR,

Be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, judging it of consequence their Lordships should have as early information as possible of the defeat of the Dutch fleet under the command of admiral De Winter, I dispatched the *Rose* cutter at three P. M. on the 12th (11th) instant, with a short letter to you immediately after the action was ended. I have now farther to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that, in the night of the 10th instant, after I had sent away my letter to you, of that date, I placed my squadron in such situation as to prevent the enemy from returning to the Texel without my falling-

falling-in with them. At nine o'clock in the morning of the 11th I got sight of Captain Trollope's squadron, with signals flying for an enemy to leeward; I immediately bore up, and made the signal for a general chase, and soon got sight of them, forming in a line on the larboard tack to receive us, the wind at N.W. As we approached near, I made the signal for the squadron to shorten sail, in order to connect them. Soon after, I saw the land between Camperdown and Egmont, about nine miles to leeward of the enemy, and, finding there was no time to be lost in making the attack, I made the signal to bear up, break the enemy's line, and engage them to leeward, each ship her opponent, by which I got between them and the land, whither they were fast approaching. My signals were obeyed with great promptitude; and vice-admiral Onslow, in the *Monarch*, bore down on the enemy's rear in the most gallant manner, his division following his example; and the action commenced about forty minutes past twelve o'clock. The *Venerable* soon got through the enemy's line, and I began a close action, with my division on their van, which lasted near two hours and a half, when I observed all the masts of the Dutch admiral's ship to go by the board; she was, however, defended for some time in a most gallant manner; but, being overpressed by numbers, her colours were struck, and admiral De Winter was soon brought on-board the *Venerable*. On looking around me, I observed the ship bearing the vice-admiral's flag was also dismasted, and had surrendered to vice-admiral Onslow; and that many others had likewise struck. Finding we were in nine fathom water, and not farther than five miles from the land,

land, my attention was so much taken up in getting the heads of the disabled ships off shore, that I was not able to distinguish the number of ships captured; and the wind having been constantly on the land since, we have unavoidably been much dispersed, so that I have not been able to gain an exact account of them; but we have taken possession of eight or nine: more of them had struck, but, taking advantage of the night, and being so near their own coast, they succeeded in getting off, and some of them were seen going into the Texel the next morning.

It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction I make known to their lordships the very gallant behaviour of vice-admiral Onslow, the captains, officers, seamen, and marines, of the squadron, who all appeared actuated with the truly British spirit, at least those I had the opportunity of seeing.

One of the enemy's ships caught fire in the action, and drove very near the Venerable: but I have the pleasure to say it was extinguished, and she is one of the ships in possession. The squadron has suffered much in their masts, yards, and rigging, and many of them have lost a number of men; however, in no proportion to that of the enemy. The carnage on-board the two ships that bore the admirals' flags has been beyond all description; they have had no less than two hundred and fifty men killed and wounded on-board of each ship; and here I have to lament the loss of Captain Burgess*, of his majesty's ship the Ardent, who brought that ship into action in the most gallant and masterly manner, but was un-

* A Monument for this gallant Officer in St. Paul's Cathedral has since been voted by Parliament.

fortunately killed soon after. However, the ship continued the action close, until quite disabled. The publick have lost a good and gallant officer in Captain Burgefs; and I, with others, a sincere friend.

Captain Trollope's exertions and active good conduct, in keeping fight of the enemy's fleet until I came up, have been truly meritorious, and, I trust, will meet a just reward.

I send this by Captain Fairfax, by whose able advice I profited much during the action, and who will give their lordships any farther particulars they may wish to know.

As most of the ships of the squadron are much disabled, and several of the prizes dismasted, I shall make the best of my way with them to the Nore.

I herewith transmit you a list of killed and wounded on-board such of the squadron as I have been able to collect; and am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ADAM DUNCAN.

A list of killed and wounded on-board the ships of admiral Duncan's squadron in an action with the Dutch on the eleventh of October, 1797.

VENERABLE.—13 seamen, 2 marines, killed; 6 officers, 52 seamen, 4 marines, wounded.
Total 77.

MONARCH.—2 officers, 34 seamen, killed; 9 officers, 79 seamen, 12 marines, wounded.
Total 136.

BEDFORD.—2 midshipmen, 26 seamen, 2 marines, killed; 1 lieutenant, 37 seamen, 3 marines, wounded. Total 88.

POWERFUL.

POWERFUL.—8 seamen, 2 marines, killed; 4 officers, 74 seamen and marines, wounded. Total 88.

ISIS.—1 seaman, 1 marine, killed; 3 officers, 18 seamen, wounded. Total 23.

ARDENT.—2 officers, 33 seamen, 6 marines, killed; 8 officers, 85 seamen, 11 marines, 3 boys, wounded. Total 148.

AGINCOURT.—None killed or wounded.

BELLIQUEUX.—2 officers, 20 seamen, 3 marines, killed; 3 officers, 63 seamen, 12 marines, wounded. Total 103.

LANCASTER.—3 seamen killed; 2 officers, 3 seamen, 3 marines, wounded. Total 21.

TRIUMPH.—25 seamen, 3 marines, 1 boy, killed; 5 officers, 50 seamen and marines, wounded. Total 84.

OFFICERS KILLED.

MONARCH.—Mr. J. P. Tindall and Mr. Moyle Finlay, midshipmen.

ARDENT.—Captain Burgefs, Mr. Michael Dunn, master.

BELLIQUEUX.—Lieutenant Robert Webster, Mr. James Milne, master's mate.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

VENERABLE.—Lieutenants Clay and Douglas, Lieutenant Chambers of the marines, Mr. Stewart, midshipman, Mr. Brown, pilot.

MONARCH. Lieutenant Retalick, Lieut. Smith of the marines, Mr. George Maffie, Mr. Benjamin Clement, Mr. Daniel Sherwin, Mr. Charles Slade, midshipmen, Mr. John Chimley, master's mate.

BEDFORD.—Lieutenant Keenor.

POWERFUL.—Lieut. Jennings, Mr. Mel. Jones, boatswain, Mr. Daniel Rogers, midshipman, Lieut. Walker of the marines.

ISIS.—Lieut. Charles Rea of the marines, Mr. Simon Fraser and Mr. John Walker, midshipmen.

ARDENT.—Lieutenants James Rose and John Sobriel, Captain Cuthbert of marines, Mr. John Tracy, master's mate, Mr. John Airey, master's mate, Mr. Thomas Leopard, midshipman, Mr. John Taylor, captain's clerk, slightly, Mr. George Killiar, midshipman, slightly.

BELLIQUEUX.—Lieutenant Robert England, slightly, Capt. James Cassel of marines, slightly, Mr. James Scott, midshipman.

LANCASTER.—Lieutenant Morgan, lieutenant Sandys of the marines.

TRIUMPH.—Captain Effington, slightly in the arm; Mr. Chapman, first lieutenant, slightly in the head; Mr. Trollope, third lieutenant, slightly in the foot; Mr. Read, master, slightly bruised; Mr. Jones, midshipman, slightly in the face.

ADAM DUNCAN,

Venerable, off Orfordness, Oct. 15.

SIR,

In addition to my letter of the 13th inst. containing the particulars of the action of the 12th, and which I have not been able to send away until this day, I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, from the wind continuing to blow on the Dutch coast, the ships have had great difficulty

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keeping off the shore, and that we have unavoidably been separated. On Friday last the wind blew strong from the W. S. W. to W. N. W. and continued so to do until Saturday morning; it then shifted to the North, when I made the signal to wear, stood to the Westward, and fortunately anchored here last evening, the Venerable being so leaky, that, with all her pumps going, we could but just keep her free. This morning I observed the ships, named in the margin*, at anchor near us, three near the Kentish Knock, and three in Hosley Bay. The wind is at N. W. and much against the disabled ships; I have, therefore, sent the Lancaster and Beaulieu out to render them assistance.

Sir Thomas Williams, in the Endymion, who joined me the day after the action, I also sent in shore, to keep by and assist the disabled ships; and, I am informed, that, in the course of the night, he fell-in with a Dutch ship of the line off the Texel, and had engaged her; but I have not heard the particulars.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
Evan Nepean, esq. ADAM DUNCAN.

* Monarch, Lancaster, Powerful, Beaulieu.



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